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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY **Guatemala**REPORT NO. SUBJECT **Puerto Barrios, Petroleum Terminal Marine Facilities**

PLACE ACQUIRED

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1. Puerto Barrios is on the Atlantic side of Guatemala at the East side of the entrance to Santo Tomas Bay in Lat 15°43' N Long 83°36' W. H O Chart 1575.
2. The facilities consist of a long steel pier which extends in a westerly direction from shore for a distance of 2,200 feet with berthing spaces for dry cargo vessels on both sides of the pier. There is, however, only one tanker berth which is located at the south side outer end of the pier with 24 ft of water alongside; 24 ft is also the controlling depth entering the port. Oil connections are located 270 ft from the outer end of the pier and refined products are discharged through one - 8" line with a water slug between each grade discharged. An additional 6" line for refined products in 1952 was in the process of being installed, which would step up turnaround of vessels considerably. This dock is suitable to accommodate vessels of the T-2 type as there are good facilities for mooring. Such vessels' draft must, however, be limited to 23 ft or less. Vessels dock port side to without tugs as there are none available and none are needed. Pilots are also unavailable. The mean rise and fall of tide is seven inches, and the times of high and low water are largely affected by winds. Vessel Masters should take note that a northerly current which sets diagonally across the end of the dock may be experienced due to the discharge of water from the rivers into the head of Santo Tomas Bay.
3. At this location NE trade winds prevail; they are strongest from May to September, during which period there are frequent heavy squalls at night accompanied by thunder and lightning. Vessels must be well secured to the dock while discharging cargo.
4. Since this is primarily a dry cargo terminal some delays in waiting berth may be experienced from time to time.

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